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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: HOLTZAPPLE et al.  
Serial No.: 10/698,199  
Filing Date: October 31, 2003  
Group Art Unit: 1797  
Confirmation No.: 9996  
Examiner: William H. Beisner  
Title: **METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR PRETREATMENT  
AND PROCESSING OF BIOMASS**

**Mail Stop AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

In response to the final Office Action mailed July 14, 2008, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the below comments.